

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate confirmed the nomination of Thomas J. Vilsack, of Iowa, to be Secretary of Agriculture.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S793–S831

Measures Introduced: Forty-three bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 357–399, S.J. Res. 8, and S. Res. 70. **Pages S821–22**

Measures Reported:

S. Res. 70, authorizing expenditures by committees of the Senate for the periods March 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021, October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022, and October 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023. **Page S820**

Cardona Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Miguel A. Cardona, of Connecticut, to be Secretary of Education. **Pages S799–S807**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Jennifer Mulhern Granholm, of Michigan, to be Secretary of Energy. **Page S799**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S799**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S799**

Granholm Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 12 noon, on Wednesday, February 24, 2021, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Jennifer Mulhern Granholm, of Michigan, to be Secretary of Energy; and that the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination ripen at 4 p.m. **Page S831**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 78 yeas to 20 nays (Vote No. EX. 61), Linda Thomas-Greenfield, of Louisiana, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of the Ambassador, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations. **Pages S793–96**

By 92 yeas to 7 nays (Vote No. EX. 63), Thomas J. Vilsack, of Iowa, to be Secretary of Agriculture. **Pages S797–98**

By 78 yeas to 21 nays (Vote No. EX. 64), Linda Thomas-Greenfield, of Louisiana, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations. **Pages S798–99**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 77 yeas to 20 nays (Vote No. EX. 62), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S797**

Executive Communications: **Pages S818–20**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S820–21**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S822–23**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S823–30**

Additional Statements: **Pages S815–18**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S830–31**

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—64) **Pages S796–99**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10:31 a.m. and adjourned at 6:51 p.m., until 12 noon on Wednesday, February 24, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S831.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine emerging technologies and their impact on national security, after receiving testimony from General Herbert J. Carlisle, USAF (Ret.), National Defense Industrial Association; Eric E. Schmidt, Schmidt Futures; and Brad L. Smith, Microsoft Corporation.

SEMIANNUAL MONETARY POLICY REPORT

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Semiannual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress, after receiving testimony from Jerome H. Powell, Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

NOMINATION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee began hearings to examine the nomination of Debra Anne Haaland, of New Mexico, to be Secretary of the Interior, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senators Heinrich and Representative Young, testified and answered questions in her own behalf, but did not complete action thereon.

Hearing recessed subject to the call and will meet again at 10 a.m., on Wednesday, February 24, 2021.

NOMINATION

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Adewale O. Adeyemo, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: On Monday, February 22, 2021, Committee ordered favorably reported an original resolution (S. Res. 64) authorizing expenditures by the Committee, and adopted its rules of procedure for the 117th Congress.

JANUARY 6 ATTACK ON THE CAPITOL

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and Committee on Rules and Administration: Committees concluded a joint hearing to examine the January 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol, after receiving testimony from Acting Chief Robert J. Contee, III, Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D.C.; Steven A. Sund, former Chief of the U.S. Cap-

itol Police; Michael C. Stenger, former Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, U.S. Senate; and Paul D. Irving, former Sergeant at Arms, U.S. House of Representatives.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments for the 117th Congress:

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations: Senators Ossoff (Chair), Carper, Hassan, Padilla, Johnson, Paul, Lankford, and Scott (FL).

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight: Senators Hassan (Chair), Sinema, Rosen, Ossoff, Paul, Romney, Scott (FL), and Hawley.

Subcommittee on Government Operations and Border Management: Senators Sinema (Chair), Carper, Padilla, Ossoff, Lankford, Johnson, Romney, and Hawley.

Senators Peters and Portman are ex-officio members of each subcommittee.

NOMINATION

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Xavier Becerra, of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senators Feinstein and Padilla, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

NOMINATION

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Merrick Brian Garland, of Maryland, to be Attorney General, Department of Justice, after receiving testimony from Josh Blackman, South Texas College of Law, Houston; Donna Bucella, former Director, Executive Office for United States Attorneys and former U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, Irving, Texas; Wade Henderson, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and Andrea Tucker, both of Washington, D.C.; and Ken Starr, Waco, Texas.

HACK OF U.S. NETWORKS

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the hack of U.S. networks by a foreign adversary, after receiving testimony from Kevin Mandia, FireEye, Inc., Reston, Virginia; Sudhakar Ramakrishna, SolarWinds Inc., Austin, Texas; Brad Smith, Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, Washington; and George Kurtz, CrowdStrike, Sunnyvale, California.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 64 public bills, H.R. 1,210–1,273; and 7 resolutions, H. Res. 146, 148–153 were introduced. **Pages H584–87**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H589–90**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 147, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 803) to designate certain lands in the State of Colorado as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5) to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 117–6). **Page H584**

Committee Elections: The House agreed to H. Res. 146, electing a Member to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. **Page H551**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:11 p.m. and reconvened at 4 p.m. **Page H552**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures: Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1101 Charlotte Street in Georgetown, South Carolina, as the “Joseph Hayne Rainey Memorial Post Office Building”: H.R. 264, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1101 Charlotte Street in Georgetown, South Carolina, as the “Joseph Hayne Rainey Memorial Post Office Building”; **Pages H552–54**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 229 Minnetonka Avenue South in Wayzata, Minnesota, as the “Jim Ramstad Post Office”: H.R. 772, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 229 Minnetonka Avenue South in Wayzata, Minnesota, as the “Jim Ramstad Post Office”; **Pages H554–55**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1050 Sunset Road Southwest in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as the “Jose Hernandez Post Office Building”: H.R. 813, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1050 Sunset Road Southwest in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as the “Jose Hernandez Post Office Building”; and **Pages H555–56**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 West Main Street, Suite 102 in Tupelo, Mississippi, as the “Colonel Carlyle ‘Smitty’ Harris Post Office”: H.R. 208, to

designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 West Main Street, Suite 102 in Tupelo, Mississippi, as the “Colonel Carlyle ‘Smitty’ Harris Post Office”, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 406 yeas to 15 nays, Roll No. 32. **Pages H556–57, H563–64**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:25 p.m. and reconvened at 6:31 p.m. **Page H563**

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Effective Assistance of Counsel in the Digital Era Act: H.R. 546, to regulate monitoring of electronic communications between an incarcerated person in a Bureau of Prisons facility and that person’s attorney or other legal representative; and **Pages H557–60**

Puerto Rico Recovery Accuracy in Disclosures Act of 2021: H.R. 1192, To impose requirements on the payment of compensation to professional persons employed in voluntary cases commenced under title III of the Puerto Rico Oversight Management and Economic Stability Act (commonly known as “PROMESA”). **Pages H560–63**

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yeas-and-nays vote developed during the proceedings of today and appeared on pages H563–64.

Adjournment: The House met at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Committee Meetings

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held an oversight hearing on the Internal Revenue Service. Testimony was heard from Charles P. Rettig, Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, Internal Revenue Service.

INNOVATION OPPORTUNITIES AND VISION FOR THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ENTERPRISE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Cyber, Innovative Technologies, and Information Systems held a hearing entitled “Innovation Opportunities and Vision for the Science and Technology Enterprise”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

NEAR-PEER ADVANCEMENTS IN SPACE AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces held a hearing entitled “Near-Peer Advancements in Space and Nuclear Weapons”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PATHWAY TO PROTECTION: EXPANDING AVAILABILITY OF COVID-19 VACCINES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Pathway to Protection: Expanding Availability of COVID-19 Vaccines”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

REVITALIZING THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on Government Operations held a hearing entitled “Revitalizing the Federal Workforce”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

COLORADO WILDERNESS ACT OF 2021; EQUALITY ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 803, the “Colorado Wilderness Act of 2021”; and H.R. 5, the “Equality Act”. The Committee granted, by record vote of 7–4, a rule providing consideration of H.R. 803, the “Protecting America’s Wilderness and Public Lands Act”, and H.R. 5, the “Equality Act”. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 803, the “Protecting America’s Wilderness and Public Lands Act”, under a structured rule. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–2, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the Rules Committee report, shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides that following debate, each further amendment printed in part B of the Rules Committee report not earlier considered as part of amendments en bloc pursuant to section 3 shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before the question is put thereon, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. Section 3 of the rule provides

that at any time after debate the chair of the Committee on Natural Resources or his designee may offer amendments en bloc consisting of further amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report not earlier disposed of Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the Rules Committee report or amendments en bloc described in section 3 of the resolution. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 5, the “Equality Act”, under a closed rule. The rule provides 90 minutes of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule provides one motion to recommit. Testimony was heard from Representatives Cicilline, Jordan, DeGette, Westerman, Plaskett, Boebert, Burgess, and Stauber.

BUILDING BACK BETTER: THE URGENT NEED FOR INVESTMENT IN AMERICA’S WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held a hearing entitled “Building Back Better: The Urgent Need for Investment in America’s Wastewater Infrastructure”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on the Budget: business meeting to consider the nomination of Neera Tanden, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Time to be announced, S–207, Capitol.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to continue hearings to examine the nomination of Debra Anne Haaland, of New Mexico, to be Secretary of the Interior, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine investing in transportation while addressing climate change, improving equity, and fostering economic growth and innovation, 10:15 a.m., SD-G50.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Xavier Becerra, of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services, 2 p.m., SD-106.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: business meeting to consider the nomination of Neera Tanden, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and committee rules of procedure for the 117th Congress, 10 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: to hold hearings to examine native communities' priorities in focus for the 117th Congress, 2:30 p.m., SD-628.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: business meeting to consider the nomination of Isabella Casillas Guzman, of California, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration, 2:30 p.m., SD-215.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold hearings to examine vaccines for vets, focusing on ending the COVID-19 pandemic, 4 p.m., SD-G50.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of William Joseph Burns, of Maryland, to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency; to be immediately followed by a closed hearing in SVC-217, 10 a.m., SR-301.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Defense, hearing entitled "Future Defense Spending", 9:30 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, budget hearing on the Judiciary, 10 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "Ready or Not: U.S. Public Health Infrastructure", 10 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, hearing entitled "Health and Wellness of Employees and State of Damage

and Preservation as a Result of the January 6 Insurrection", 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled "Fanning the Flames: Disinformation and Extremism in the Media", 12:30 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Monetary Policy and the State of the Economy", 10 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "How Invidious Discrimination Works and Hurts: An Examination of Lending Discrimination and Its Long-term Economic Impacts on Borrowers of Color", 3 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled "America Forward: Restoring Diplomacy and Development in a Fracturing World", 1:30 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Confronting the Coronavirus: Perspectives on the COVID-19 Pandemic One Year Later", 9:30 a.m., Webex.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet, hearing entitled "The Need for New Lower Court Judgeships, 30 Years in the Making", 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn and Webex.

Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, hearing entitled "The Rise of Domestic Terrorism in America", 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Legislative Proposals to Put the Postal Service on Sustainable Financial Footing", 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations, hearing entitled "Perspectives from Main Street: Raising the Wage", 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, hearing entitled "Examining Equity in Transportation Safety Enforcement", 11 a.m., 2167 Rayburn and Webex.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

12 noon, Wednesday, February 24

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Jennifer Mulhern Granholm, of Michigan, to be Secretary of Energy, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 4 p.m.

(Senate will recess from 3 p.m. until 4 p.m. for an all Senators briefing.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, February 24

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H.R. 803—Colorado Wilderness Act of 2021 (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of H.R. 5—Equality Act (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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